

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 9016

By Freeman

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Father George Frederick "Fred" Dettwiller II of Nashville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Father George Frederick "Fred" Dettwiller II, a business and religious leader, inspiring pastor, humble servant of God, and faithful friend; and

WHEREAS, born on October 8, 1932, in Memphis, Father Fred Dettwiller moved to Nashville in 1951 when his father started DET Distributing; he graduated from Vanderbilt University as one of the school's first philosophy majors; and

WHEREAS, at twenty-three years of age, Father Dettwiller co-founded his first beer distributorship, CarDett, with his cousin, and in 1973, he went on to purchase DET Distributing, running both companies until selling CarDett in 1979; and

WHEREAS, when he acquired DET Distributing, it employed twenty-three individuals and served seven Tennessee counties; today, the company employs more than 300 individuals and serves twenty-four counties from offices in Nashville and Jackson. Under Fred Dettwiller's leadership, DET Distributing won the Miller Masters award nine times, and Father Dettwiller was named a Miller Legend in 2008 for his lifetime achievement; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his business acumen, Father Dettwiller served the Nashville community in a host of arenas, including serving as the chair of the Nashville Convention Center Commission and the committee that recommended Nashville build Bridgestone Arena; and

WHEREAS, a commercially rated pilot, Father Fred Dettwiller chaired the Metropolitan Nashville Airport Authority and the Tennessee Aeronautics Commission, and as a champion for civil rights and education, he chaired the Tennessee Human Rights Commission, the Tennessee State University Foundation Board, and Tennesseans for Better Schools; and

WHEREAS, additionally, he established the chaplaincy program at Metropolitan Nashville Airport's public safety department and served as chaplain at several other local, state, and national public safety agencies, including the Secret Service; and

WHEREAS, after a lifetime of involvement in the Episcopal Church as a lay leader, Fred Dettwiller entered the priesthood in 2004; he began his church service as a deacon of St. Philips Episcopal Church in Nashville and went on to serve as pastor of the Church of Our Saviour in Gallatin, then as Canon for Special Projects for the Episcopal diocese of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Father Dettwiller remained chairman of DET Distributing while he carried out his priestly duties, relying on trusted senior managers to handle day-to-day management duties; and

WHEREAS, Father Dettwiller was deeply passionate about helping people and families during times of crisis, and, through the many chaplaincy programs he established at public safety organizations, he was more able to serve others whose mission it was to serve those in need; and

WHEREAS, Father Fred Dettwiller is survived by his wife, Kathryn; children, Sally Dettwiller (Jimmy) Corrigan, George Frederick (Denise) Dettwiller III, Ann Kathryn Dettwiller, Helene Dettwiller (Rob) Vaughn, Jennifer Mathes (David) Baltimore, Christin Mathes (David) Robbins, and Kimberly Dettwiller (Gordon) Burton; and eleven grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Father Dettwiller served his faith and his community with distinction for many years, and he should be remembered for his many contributions and the example he set for others; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Father George Frederick "Fred" Dettwiller II,

reflecting fondly upon his resolute service to God and humanity, and extend our sympathy and condolences to his family and many friends.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.